THE NEGRO IN BUSINESS.

A Banner Day at the Second Baptist Lyceum - Colored Bankers, Grocers, Real Rstate Dealers, Publishers and Restau ranteurs Discusses Their Professions -Notes and Mention.

Another audience that overflowed the capacity of the Second Baptist church lecture room was in attendance last Sunday afternoon up n the Second Baptist Lyceum. They came out te hear, and profit by, the discussion of the Negro's condition in business, past and present, and means for future development. The meeting partcok of the nature of a symposium and the gentlemen who discussed the subject in its various ramifications were men who stand as leaders in their respective lines of endeavor. The audience was



HON. L. C. BAILEY.

in a sympathetis and earnest mood, and particular and constant attention was given each speaker. The president, Mr. R. W. Thompson was most felicitous in his introduction of the various speakers and his happy speeches added much to the interest of the meeting. Mr. L. C. Bailey, banker, inventor and business man and treasurer of the Capital Savings Bank Company was introduced and spoke on the "Negro as a Banker." Mr. Bailey spoke with out notes and attempted no flights on the wings of oratory, but gave a plain, practical, common sense, right from the shoulder talk, that was replete with solid wisdom and good advice. He gave a little of the history of the inception of his "baby" as he calls the Capital Savings Bank, and said that it had been the hope of its founders that the Ne groes of the District would average a deposit of at least \$1 00 per month. This would give them a working eapital of \$80,000 a month, and with this capital said the speaker, the condition of the Negro in the District, financially. socially and in business, would have been revolutionized long ere this. He said that the colored teachers of the District spend \$50,000 a year with the white dry good merchants, and yet no representation is given our race as saleswomen or salesmen. It these teachers would combine and go to one of the merchants and say to him, "We spend \$50,000 a year and will spend it with you if you will put representatives of our race behind your counters." And, said the speaker, he would do it. though every white clerk in the estab lishment should leave. He counselled getting together, advised cultivating the saving habit, appealed to the people to start accounts with the Capital Savings Bank of at least on dollar per month, and he said before long our people would be able to get out of the alleys and byways and live in houses of their own on the front streets. The next speaker Mr. C. L. Marshall who White, M. C.



J. P. KERR,

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has conducted for seven years a prosperous grocery business, who spoke on the Negro as a grocer. Mr. Marshall said that he did not see how a grocer could say in ten minutes what needed to be said on the subject, when he had to talk five minutes to sell a loaf of bread. He said that three dollars out of every five dellars that came in over his counter, came from his white custo mers, That the white people patronized him because they were not embarrassed in coming to a small place to buy small quantities. That the colored people did not patronize him because they wanted to be seen in big places where they could not afford to go, and really had no business. But he spoke of the number of our people who did patro nize him, and his appreciation of it. He gave a splendid talk upon con ditions surrounding the race and point ed hopefully to the future.

Mr. Robert Pelham, jr., of Detroit, Mich., who for 10 years edited and published one of the best race papers we have ever had read a paper on the Negro as a publisher. With a masterly stroke, he painted the trials and vi eissitudes which come upon the man who runs a paper in the interest of the Negro. He attributed much of the hard ship attending this business to the fail ure on part of the masses to reflect and read. Very humorously, he told of the tendency of the people to think that the price of a subscription was full value for a minute and full account of eyery phase of their personal life, nor was even the price of a subscription always in evidence.

Mr. Andrew F. Hilyer, secretary of the Union League and compiler of the Union League Directory was introduc ed and gave a resume of the the subject in its general aspect. He referred to the fact that industrially our ranks are being thinned, that there is a striking and noticeable absence of apprentices to take the places rapidly being left vacant by the old mechanics. In account ing for this condition he attributed it largely to the antipathy shown the Ne gre by the various labor unions, coupled with lack of opportunity among our own endeavers to supply this want.

The general discussion was participated in by A. L. Manly, editor Daily Record, Prof. Jesse Lawson, Alex. H Matthews of Georgia and Henry & Baker. On motion of Lieut. Lucien H. White a rising vote of thanks was ten dered all the gentlemen taking part in the exercises. Next Sunday, Nov. 4th, the speaker vill be Hon. George H.

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